Responses to the Input Received Through the Public Consultation Process on the Draft North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan

North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Team

September, 2002

INTRODUCTION

On January 19, 2001 the *Recovery Plan for Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades of British Columbia*, was released as a draft for consultation purposes, by the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Team. Shortly thereafter, on February 15, 2001 Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Ian Waddell officially invited public feedback on the proposed plan. He announced that a consultation process consisting of "meetings with specific stakeholder groups will be held in February and March, followed by public open houses in April".

Concurrently, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks undertook an extensive mail out of some 450 letters to persons, stakeholders, First Nations, organizations, and industries in the North Cascades area that might directly be affected by the recovery plan.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

As directed, the Recovery Team conducted a total of 24 stakeholder sessions, which commenced March 5, and ended on May 9, 2001. Sessions were targeted to groups that were likely to have a direct interest in the North Cascades backcountry area. Stakeholders were represented from the following resource and recreation sectors: forestry; ranching; mining; prospectors; snowmobilers; four wheel drivers; sportsmen; academia; backcountry horsemen; local and civic governments; naturalists; all terrain vehicle users; and motorcyclists.

Attendance at these stakeholder sessions ranged from a low of 9 to a high of 86 persons. In total 746 individuals attended these sessions, often held in conjunction with stakeholder monthly meetings, on evenings or weekends, and in their communities to accommodate attendance.

Beginning April 12, 2001 Public Consultation Sessions were held in nine (9) communities considered to be most affected by this recovery plan. These were open to all citizens and each session was advertised in at least one local community paper, or where there was no such paper, by posters inserted at community facilities (i.e., post office). The following communities (listed by first to last meeting held) were participants: Princeton, Merritt, Hope, Chilliwack, Manning Park, Keremeos, Lytton, Boston Bar, and Tulameen. Attendance ranged from 13 to 50, with the exception of Lytton, at which no one attended. In total 248 citizens participated through this process.

In addition to these consultation sessions, all constituents of the public were invited to write or e-mail their input on the recovery plan. A web-site with a complete copy of the plan and other information was made available at the end of February. Anyone requesting information about the plan, via mail, was also accommodated. In total 55 written submissions were received.

Originally the deadline for input was April 30, but it was subsequently extended to May 14, 2001. In keeping with the Ministers' commitment to revise the proposed North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan based on comments received during the consultation process, the Recovery Team set out to record comments, questions, and concerns from all 33 consultation sessions held.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

What follows, is a summary of the input received from all the consultation sessions and written submissions. Some input received has not been included in the summary because:

- it was clearly answered in the *Recovery Plan for Grizzly Bears in the North Cascades of BC* document dated January 19, 2001
- it was not germane to the recovery plan, e.g., the three year moratorium on grizzly bear hunting in British Columbia
- it was considered as technical detail more appropriate for the Recovery Team to consider separately, based on their intimate knowledge of the recovery plan. These details had less to do with public issues, more to do with providing guidance on technical points in the plan.

The remaining input has been summarized, as received, to help facilitate interpretation by others. This input has been categorized into eleven broad issues to assist the Recovery Team with further consideration in obtaining approval for their recovery plan.

Issues were organized from those with the most items (i.e., rows) to the least (the order in which these issues are listed does not necessarily imply priority). The table lists the questions, concerns, or comments that were raised within each broad issue. Questions, concerns, or comments made more than once at any individual consultation session were recorded only once. Therefore, if an issue was raised three times at a stakeholder meeting, it was recorded in the frequency column once, for that particular stakeholder group.

Conflicting comments raised on a particular issue, within any consultation session, are recorded separately in the summary (i.e., they did not cancel one another for the record). Questions, concerns, comments are ordered in the table by the frequency with which they were raised, starting with the most frequent. This frequency is listed by the venues in which they were raised, i.e. public consultation session (PC), stakeholder meeting (SM), or as a written submission (WS)[1].

[1] The reader should be aware that for each row in the table, a full set of frequency information for PC, SM, WS is given. Splits within a row, or across pages, can be recognized by the absence of one or more frequency item, or a continuation of location names or interest groups.

Two other items were considered to be of importance, an indication of who, specifically by interest group, presented the question, comment, or concern, and the geographic locations from which these comments came.

Summary of Input on the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan and Recovery Team Responses

Issue: Biology/Ecology

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency[1]	Location(s)	Interests
1	For 150 years the grizzly bear population of the North Cascades has been small. Probably because there are few salmon. There has been no hunting for the last 30 years, perhaps poaching is contributing to the small population size. Why don't' you just let nature take its course? Concept is that the population is stable, so why interfere with it?	The recovery team agrees that the available information indicates the population has been small for approximately 150 years but does not believe that this is largely due to the reduced availability of salmon given the quality of the existing habitat and availability of other food sources. The evidence indicates that the reduction in the size of the population is a human-induced as opposed to a natural event. It is possible that a low level of reported and unreported human-caused mortality has been sufficient to keep the population small in recent decades. Although the available information indicates that the population is stable, it is very small and therefore inherently at risk of extirpation. History as well as research in population dynamics has demonstrated that a population's risk of being lost increases dramatically with reduced population size. British Columbia has committed itself to the conservation of its grizzly bears and intends to recover the province's threatened populations.	PC - 5 SM - 9 WS - 2	Chilliwack Princeton Keremeos Okanagan Hope Lower Mainland Merritt Tulameen	Citizens Miners Sportsmen Horsemen Snowmobilers Stockbreeders
2	How do grizzly bears and black bears interact? Don't they utilize the same habitat? I.e. what will be the impact to black bears? In a wilderness situation what is the ratio of grizzly bears to black bears?	Grizzly bears and black bears have occupied the same areas for thousands or years (including most of British Columbia). The species do utilize some of the same habitats, however, their ecological niches are not identical. In some cases grizzly bears will prey on black bears. The impact of grizzly bear recovery on black bears is expected to be a small reduction in the number of black bears, however, this will be a slow, long-term process. In the North Cascades black bears are expected to outnumber grizzly bears by a considerable margin even after recovery is achieved. See Question #15.	PC - 2 SM - 8 WS - 1	Keremeos Lower Mainland Chilliwack Okanagan Merritt Hope Tulameen	Snowmobilers Sportsmen Miners Forest licensees Citizens Naturalists

[1] PC = Public Consultation Session, SM = Stakeholder Meeting and WS = Written Submission

3	What impact in terms of displacement, food competition, etc. will introducing grizzly bears have on the ungulate (deer, moose, sheep, elk, goat) populations? Do you know the population sizes of these other animals?	Grizzly bears will prey on ungulates, especially deer fawns and elk calves during their first month. They also scavenge carcasses of ungulates killed by other means (e.g. winter kills etc.) The population sizes of the ungulate species in the North Cascades was not addressed directly by the recovery team and is not considered to be an important issue in recovery. Grizzly bears are not expected to have a significant impact on the populations of these species even after recovery is achieved. In the proposed reintroduction of grizzly bears to the Bitterroot Ecosystem it was assumed that on average each grizzly bear would kill 1.8 wild ungulates/year. If recovery occurs a population of 150 grizzly bears would kill 270 wild ungulates/year. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to include direction to coordinate grizzly bear recovery work with conservation initiatives for other species, especially species at risk.**	PC – 3 SM – 2 WS – 2	Chilliwack Tulameen Princeton Boston Bar Keremeos	Miners Citizens Sportsmen Snowmobilers
4	How many grizzly bears live in the British Columbia and United States portion of the North Cascades? How many grizzlies in all of BC?	It is estimated that approximately 20-25 grizzly bears live in the British Columbia portion of the North Cascades and <15 in the Washington State portion. There are at least 13,800 grizzly bears in all of British Columbia.	PC – 0 SM – 6 WS – 1	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Merritt	Snowmobilers Sportsmen Horsemen Miners Citizens 4WD's
5	What types of habitat do grizzly bears need across the landscape for their survival and recovery – i.e. riparian zones, berry patches, den sites, territorial ranges, etc.?	See Appendix 8.1: Grizzly Bear Biology in the draft recovery plan.	PC – 1 SM – 3 WS – 1	Okanagan Merritt Chilliwack	Miners Horsemen Citizens Conservationists
6	What type of habitat enhancement projects will be undertaken, and where will they be undertaken? Would there be a prescribed clear cut before a prescribed burn?	Habitat enhancement will occur where forage supply analysis indicates a concern with existing seasonal habitat suitability. If the objective was to change a site from mature forest to an early seral stage the decision on whether to use forest harvesting or prescribed burning would depend on the specific circumstances such as whether the site was within the timber harvesting land base.	PC – 1 SM – 2 WS – 2	Okanagan Merritt Chilliwack Lower Mainland	Horsemen Citizens Miners

7	What is the grizzly bear population in the Stein/ Nahatlatch population unit, and why can't grizzly bears move from this or other population units into the North Cascades?	It is estimated that there are 69 grizzly bears in the Stein/Nahatlatch Grizzly Bear Population Unit. It is not known whether grizzly bears currently move between the North Cascades and the Stein/Nahatlatch or whether they would in the future if the populations recover. There are natural and artificial barriers to grizzly bear movement, however, work has begun to investigate the potential for linkages.	PC – 2 SM – 3 WS – 0	Chilliwack Okanagan Princeton Boston Bar	Sportsmen Miners Citizens
8	Can grizzly bears just survive on a diet of plants? Don't grizzly bears eat animals such as Hoary Marmot, Mountain Beaver, deer, elk, moose too? How many animals do they eat?	Grizzly bears eat both plants and animals, however, the majority of their diet is from plants. Some of the meat they consume comes from scavenging. See response to Question #3.	PC – 2 SM – 2 WS – 0	Keremeos Tulameen Princeton	Stockbreeders Citizens Snowmobilers
9	As it relates to the size of a grizzly bear's home range, is the North Cascades area a low or medium productivity area? In other words, what is the estimated size of home range for a female and a male grizzly bear in the North Cascades?	See Appendix 8.1: Grizzly Bear Biology in the draft recovery plan. Grizzly bear home range size in the North Cascades is not known, these estimates are based on the quality of the available habitat and should be treated as general approximations of the scale of possible home ranges. The size of grizzly bear home ranges varies depending on the quality of the habitat. In the North Cascades adult female home ranges (which may overlap) may average approximately 100 km^2 with adult male home ranges (again overlapping) potentially averaging approximately 200-300 km^2.	PC – 2 SM – 1 WS – 0	Okanagan Hope Boston Bar	Miners Citizens
10	How many breeding females do the North Cascades require for a recovered, self-sustaining population of grizzly bears?	This number is not known. The larger the population the greater its likelihood is of persisting over the long-term. When recovery is achieved there would be approximately 37 adult female grizzly bears in the North Cascades.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 2	Chilliwack	Forest Licensees Conservationists
11	Would an increase in grizzly bears in the North Cascades provide restoration of an ecological balance? One must assume that their loss has led to an ecological imbalance. I.e. is there any benefit to bringing grizzly bears back into the North Cascades?	Recovering the grizzly bear population would restore a native species in the North Cascades to a more natural level. The native species in the North Cascades have co-evolved together to form a biological community and the unnatural loss or reduction in the abundance of these species leads to an increasingly artificial system whose long-term sustainability is unknown.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 2	Keremeos Tulameen	Citizens Snowmobilers

12	In the North Cascades there are often years of very poor berry crops, could this not be a factor in your low population numbers?	Annual variations in the abundance of berry crops is natural and occurs throughout grizzly bear range without causing populations to decline. Often when one type or group of food plants has poor production bears will shift to other species of plants (i.e. if the availability of huckleberries is low they may move to other areas to feed on mountain ash and elderberries).	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Keremeos Tulameen	Sportsmen Citizens
13	You may have to accept that there are no opportunities for linkage for the North Cascades grizzly bear population, especially between population units, and even within the spine of the North Cascades.	See response to Question #7. The recovery plan recognizes that this is an important issue, including linkage within the North Cascades (i.e. across the Coquihalla Highway). There are consistent sightings of grizzly bears near the toll booth on the Coquihalla Highway indicating that movement across the highway may be occurring.	PC - 0 SM - 2 WS - 0	Chilliwack Merritt	Sportsmen Forest Licensees
14	Population linkages should be encouraged both in Canada and the United States to help strengthen genetic diversity, habitat quality/diversity and population adaptability.	The recovery team agrees. See response to Question #7 & 13.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 2	N/A	Conservationists North Cascades Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (NCES)
15	What is the black bear population in the North Cascades?	The exact size of the black bear population is unknown, however, it is estimated that there are over 1,000 black bears in the North Cascades of British Columbia.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Chilliwack Hope	Sportsmen Citizens
16	Are there grizzly bears near Merritt or in the Chilliwack Valley now?	Merritt is outside of the population unit and no recent sightings of grizzly bears in the Merritt area have been reported. There have been recent sightings of grizzly bears near Chilliwack including Tamihi Creek, Foley Creek and Cheam Lake.	PC - 0 SM - 2 WS - 0	Merritt Chilliwack	Local government Sportsmen
17	With respect to human disturbance, what are the differences of the impacts to black bears and grizzly bears?	Grizzly bears are much more sensitive to human disturbance and human-caused mortality than black bears. See Appendix 8.1: Grizzly Bear Biology in the draft recovery plan.	PC - 2 SM - 0 WS - 0	Hope Merritt	Citizens
18	What elevation do grizzly bear occur in?	Grizzly bears could be expected to occur in the full range of elevations found in the North Cascades depending on the availability of food sources and the level of human disturbance.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Merritt Boston Bar	Local government Citizens

19	Will Wildlife Habitat Area's (WHA) be established for grizzly bears and when? How do they work?	Yes WHAs will be established for grizzly bears, however, this will occur regardless of whether a recovery plan is approved. For more information on WHAs and the Identified Wildlife Management Strategy see the following website: http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/identified/index.htm.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 1	Chilliwack Okanagan	Forest Licensees Miner
20	Could the North Cascades grizzly bear population be small because it is dominated by males, and are those males eating the cubs?	There is no evidence that cannibalism is limiting the growth of the population. Most of the available information suggests that cannibalism is more prevalent at high densities or in harvested populations – neither of which is the case in the North Cascades.	PC – 1 SM – 0 WS – 0	Chilliwack	Citizens
21	At what time in the past would grizzly bears have still occupied the historical range in North America?	The exact dates are unknown, however, grizzly bears would have occupied the vast majority of their historic range in North America approximately 200 years ago.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Kamloops	Miners
22	Scientific study requires that a base line be established. If you augment the existing population to diversify the gene pool, won't you confound the scientific evidence?	It is true that augmenting the population will reduce or eliminate the ability to establish a genetic baseline for the population, however, this baseline is not considered to be critical for recovery efforts. In fact, the ability to conduct these analyses has only developed relatively recently and grizzly bear recovery efforts in other areas have been ongoing for many years. The most critical immediate issue is the small size of the population, not its genetic diversity.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Okanagan	Miners
23	What is the life span of a grizzly bear?	Grizzly bears can live over 35 years in the wild.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Lower Mainland	4WD's
24	You mentioned that often people mistake brown (cinnamon) coloured black bears for grizzly bears. Black bears can be brown?	Yes, black bears can range from blonde to black in the North Cascades. In other areas white and blue-grey colour phases are found.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Merritt	Local government
25	Can you tell a male grizzly from a female grizzly by just looking at them?	Unless the animal is accompanied by cubs (in which case it is a female) or is large for the area in question (in which case it is most likely a male) it is very difficult to distinguish between the sexes.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Chilliwack	Snowmobilers
26	What is the gestation length for grizzly bears?	Gestation for grizzly bears varies due to delayed implantation between 180 and 250 days. Grizzly bears normally breed in May and June and	PC – 0 SM – 1	Okanagan	Horsemen

		cubs are born in the den in January or February.	WS - 0		
27	With the North Cascades grizzly bear population having been isolated for many decades how will foreign disease and infection from augmented bears be controlled?	Any grizzly bears used for augmentation will be examined by a veterinarian to ensure that they are healthy and to reduce the risk of disease or parasite transmission to animals in the North Cascades. The recovery team does not believe that there is an elevated risk of disease impacting this population given the rarity of diseases or parasites being linked to problems with bear population conservation and the fact that black bears have continued to move into and out of the North Cascades and would have been expected to reduce any isolation of the population in terms of exposure to diseases and parasites.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	Kamloops	Miners
28	Has the loss of genetic diversity been established as resulting in reproductive or survival impacts to bear populations in other parts of the world?	The impact of reduced genetic diversity on reproduction or survival of bears has not been demonstrated in the wild but has been observed in captive populations resulting from inbreeding. The issue of the loss of genetic diversity is not the primary reason for recommending population augmentation, however, if diversity has been lost augmentation would be expected to mitigate this loss. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan by changing the wording of the introductory paragraph under 4.2.2 Genetic Diversity to indicate that it is believed genetic diversity has declined (as opposed to the current wording of "all but certain").**	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	N/A	NCES

Issue: Process

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
29	This is a politically driven plan with inadequate public input, the government will do what it wants despite what it hears through the consultation process. We do not trust the government. What chance, have we of affecting changes to this plan? Is this not a done deal?	The recovery plan has been prepared by a technical recovery team and has not been "politically driven." The consultation process was extensive and the recovery team is recommending changes to the plan based on the input received. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to include the establishment of a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the plan. The Liaison Committee would include representatives from local First Nations and stakeholders and would have the ability to report to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection through the Director of the Biodiversity Branch if necessary.**	PC – 3 SM – 11 WS – 2	Merritt Keremeos Princeton Vernon Kelowna Lower Mainland	Miners 4WD's Sportsmen Stockbreeders Snowmobilers Horsemen Citizens
30	This process must be integrated with the Local Resource Management Process (LRMP) and where there are no LRMP's in place such as for Merritt and Hope the government must put them in place. Government has bought into local land use planning, let the local processes direct these plans. Doesn't the LRMP take precedence over this Recovery Plan? Is the NCGBR Plan considered a Higher Level Plan? It would be useful to illustrate how this recovery plan is nested within the hierarchy of land use plans.	See Section 1.3: The Recovery Planning Process in the draft recovery plan. The recovery plan is not a land use plan or a higher level plan and, where there is an existing or future land use plan that has been approved by the provincial government, it will take precedence over the recovery plan. Many elements of the recovery plan are not relevant to land use planning (e.g. population augmentation, public education, reducing bear/human conflicts etc.). It is important to proceed with recovery planning and direct recovery actions prior to land use planning because individual land use plans will only encompass a portion of the North Cascades. It would be much more difficult to make land use planning decisions regarding grizzly bear conservation within a specific planning area in the absence of a recovery plan for the whole population. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to make the role of the plan relative to land use and park management planning processes clearer.**	PC – 2 SM – 7 WS – 6	Okanagan Lower Mainland Merritt Kamloops Keremeos Chilliwack	Miners Horsemen Snowmobilers Stockbreeders Forest Licensees Citizens Conservationists

31	Where is the integration in this plan with respect to interactions with, and impacts to other wildlife species? Do you not have an overall wildlife strategy, rather than a single species strategy? What will the recovery of grizzly bear do for the other species of wildlife? Grizzly bear is a 'blue listed' species so how is it being prioritized with respect to 'red listed' species within the North Cascades?	See Question #3 re: coordination with conservation efforts for other species. When species are at risk it is often necessary to address them with single species approaches such as recovery plans. The recovery team does not believe that grizzly bear recovery represents a threat to the conservation of any other wildlife species in the North Cascades and in fact, expects substantial benefits to other species as result of the actions to be taken under the plan (e.g. access management will benefit many species). It is important to recognize that while grizzly bears are Blue-listed provincially, the North Cascades population is threatened. However, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has recently approved a policy that addresses situations where other species of wildlife are threatening the conservation of Red and Blue-listed species and this policy will be applied, if necessary, to grizzly bears in the North Cascades.	PC - 2 SM - 5 WS - 3	Chilliwack Okanagan Keremeos Princeton Merritt Tulameen Pasayten Valley	Miners Stockbreeders Sportsmen Citizens
32	Why have the public, First Nations, and stakeholders not been involved with a process that is already 3 years underway? This is the first we have heard of this plan. Can we proceed now with a "round table " process where everyone is represented at the table to enable consensus?	The development of the recovery plan for the North Cascades was a pilot, there was a great deal of uncertainty about the potential outcomes which led to a decision to develop the plan through a draft prepared by technical staff within government followed by consultation with First Nations, stakeholders and the public. In future consideration will be given to mechanisms to involve these groups in the process at an earlier stage based on the experience gained from this pilot. See Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the plan.	PC - 3 SM - 5 WS - 0	Merritt Princeton Okanagan Tulameen Keremeos Boston Bar	Snowmobilers Stockbreeders Sportsmen Citizens First Nations

33	The plan does not appear to be adaptive, nor does it indicate how it is going to be monitored, and for how long, in order to test the assumptions that have been made. How will you assess grizzly bear population growth? How will you know augmenting 25 bears will recover the population?	See section 5: Monitoring. The recovery plan will be revised every five years based in large part on the results of this monitoring work and annual adjustments in the implementation of the plan will also be made on this basis. There is no guarantee that the draft recovery plan, including augmentation of the population, will be successful. See Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the plan. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to more clearly describe how the results of monitoring will be used and to describe the role of the Liaison Committee in reviewing the results of monitoring and making decisions on any changes to the implementation of the recovery plan.**	PC - 2 SM - 3 WS - 3	Okanagan Kamloops Merritt Tulameen Keremeos	Miners Citizens Conservationists
34	Why was the North Cascades chosen for the recovery plan and not some other place in BC? There is too much human development and population in the North Cascades and it will continue to grow in an exponential manner up to 2050. Conflicts will increase.	The North Cascades was chosen as the first pilot for grizzly bear recovery planning because it is one of the most imperilled grizzly bear populations in the province. In addition, the fact that the population is shared with the United States and that British Columbia has made a commitment to the conservation of shared grizzly bear populations was an additional factor. The recovery team believes that the recovery plan sufficiently accounts for the potential for grizzly bear/human conflicts including future pressure for increased development and recreation. Grizzly bear/human conflicts will be monitored and, while they may increase from essentially none currently, they are expected to remain very rare and primarily minor while the incidence of more common conflicts with black bears may decline.	PC - 2 SM - 4 WS - 1	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Merritt Keremeos Pasayten Valley	Sportsmen Horsemen Snowmobilers Citizens
35	What reaction are you getting to this plan from other stakeholder groups and the communities close to the augmentation area?	See this summary.	PC - 4 SM - 3 WS - 0	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Merritt Tulameen Princeton	Sportsmen 4WD's Snowmobilers Citizens

36	Who is on the recovery team, and what qualifications do they have? How many are on the team? How can they be contacted? Are stakeholders on the team? Who has the authority to implement this plan? Has this plan been approved, and has any of it been implemented?	The recovery team membership has changed over time in terms of specific individuals, however, it is comprised technical staff from various provincial government agencies including wildlife biologists, foresters, a geologist, Conservation Officers and park managers. The size of the team has varied but has averaged approximately 12 at any one time. No stakeholders are currently on the recovery team, First Nations have participated periodically. The recovery plan has not been approved and ultimately will be approved by the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection. Efforts to conserve this population of grizzly bears have been undertaken in the past and will continue to be regardless of whether a recovery plan is approved, however, strategies such as population augmentation will not occur in the absence of an approved recovery plan.	PC - 2 SM - 4 WS - 1	Lower Mainland Merritt Tulameen Princeton Okanagan	4WD's Horsemen Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens Miners
37	Is there a contingency plan if this is not successful? Will you stop if it doesn't work, or will you turn the whole North Cascades into a Park to ensure success?	See section 5: Monitoring and Question #33 re: using the results of monitoring and the role of the Liaison Committee. There are no contingency plans in place that will be adopted if the plan is not successful, instead the recovery plan will be implemented in an adaptive manner. The recovery team does not have a mandate to "turn the whole North Cascades into a park" and does not believe that this is necessary.	PC - 1 SM - 6 WS - 0	Lower Mainland Princeton Merritt Tulameen Keremeos	4WD's Horsemen Stockbreeders Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens
38	What steps remain in this process before the Recovery Plan is given final approval? This isn't going to be the last of the consultations, is it?	See Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee. A taskforce comprised of representatives from key sectors will review the input received during consultation process as well as the proposed responses from the recovery team and will make recommendations to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection before the plan is finalized and approved.	PC - 4 SM - 0 WS - 2	Princeton Boston Bar Chilliwack Merritt Lower Mainland	Citizens

39	The NCGBR Plan seems to conflict with existing provincial legislation, contractual tenure agreements with Ministry of Forests, Parks, etc. For example: • *Mining Rights Amendment Act* • *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* • Okanagan-Shuswap LRMP • Kamloops LRMP • BC Parks Management Plans • Ministry of Forests recreational trails, cabins, and other infrastructures This leads to great distrust.	The recovery team is not aware of any ways in which the draft recovery plan conflicts with existing legislation, contracts, tenures or approved land use plans. See Questions #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the recovery plan and Question #30 re: revising the plan to make the role of the plan relative to land use and park management planning processes clearer.	PC - 1 SM - 4 WS - 0	Okanagan Keremeos Merritt Lower Mainland	Miners Stockbreeders Snowmobilers Citizens Horsemen
40	Has there been a cost impact study with respect to resource extraction, commercial tourism, backcountry lodges, heli-skiing, licensed users (e.g. helicopter companies) based on this recovery plan, and also on any applicable LRMP's?	Assessments of the potential cost and annual allowable cut implications for forestry have been conducted and have determined that the impacts are negligible and associated primarily with access management. In order to address the concern regarding potential cost implications resulting from conflicts between grizzly bears and livestock the draft recovery plan endorses the establishment of a livestock compensation program. Assessments of cost implications to other activities are not considered necessary as they are expected to be minimal and will addressed on a case-by-case basis during future decision-making. **The recovery team proposes revising the draft recovery plan to clarify that financial assistance will be provided to defray the costs of access management.**	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 4	Okanagan Keremeos	Miners Private Enterprise

41	Why has this plan not been given a peer review to evaluate its content?	The recovery plan was peer reviewed by Dr. Stephen Herrero, emeritus professor at the University of Calgary, prior to release for consultation. Comments were also obtained from wildlife biologists outside the recovery team during the consultation process and these are being considered as technical input.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 3	Princeton Lower Mainland	Stockbreeders Citizens Conservationists
42	Are we correct in assuming that the North Cascades is one of nine threatened grizzly bear populations in BC and that it is the first to be recovered? If the North Cascades is the first, and the Kettle/Granby the second, won't we be seeing grizzly bear in the highly populated Okanagan at some future date? How will efforts be co-ordinated between and within grizzly bear population units, especially with so many agencies involved?	Since the release of the draft recovery plan, two additional populations (Valhalla and Central Monashees) have been designated as "Threatened" resulting in a total of 11 threatened populations. The North Cascades is the first pilot recovery planning effort and the Kettle-Granby will be the second. Grizzly bears already periodically occur in the Okanagan. While there is no intent to recover grizzly bears there, grizzly bears will continue to infrequently move into the area and, if recovery efforts are successful, the incidence of these occurrences will likely increase somewhat but are expected to remain rare. Efforts will be made to respond to grizzly bears that move into populated areas in the Okanagan valley with the management objective being to discourage grizzly bears from occupying the area. Where necessary, animals will be translocated or destroyed. See Section 4.7: Facilitate interagency cooperation and management of the North Cascades grizzly bear population.	PC - 1 SM - 3 WS - 0	Okanagan Merritt Lower Mainland	Miners Sportsmen Citizens 4WD's
43	We need assurances that all concerns around this recovery plan are being heard. Government, Ministry of Environment, and other ministries have a poor track record honouring previous agreements brought about by consultation processes, e.g.: • Lillooet LRMP especially Texas, Van Horlick Creeks • Ministry of Highways • Nicola River Dam project	See this summary and, in particular, Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the recovery plan.	PC - 0 SM - 3 WS - 0	Merritt Lower Mainland	Stockbreeders 4WD's Local government

44	Without a legal and regulatory role for the recovery plan, the grizzly bear will remain subservient to other Crown land uses. We recommend the plan be introduced as a "Bill" to the legislature, to provide the necessary regulatory punch.	The recovery team does not believe that legislation is necessary and believes that grizzly bear recovery can be integrated with human uses under existing legislation.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 3	N/A	Conservationists
45	We would like to see stakeholders, First Nations, other government ministries e.g., Ministry of Agriculture, non-government organizations, individuals, communities etc., represented on the recovery team.	See Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the recovery plan.	PC - 0 SM - 2 WS - 1	Princeton Merritt	Stockbreeders Forest Licensees Conservationists
46	How does Federal Legislation like *SARA (Species at Risk Act)* affect or inform this North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan?	Currently there is no effect on the recovery planning process as a result of SARA. If the legislation is implemented in its current form it would require that a management plan for grizzly bears in Canada be prepared within three years. This planning process would likely increase the level of scrutiny on threatened populations such as the North Cascades, especially if a local plan was not already in place.	PC - 2 SM - 0 WS - 0	Merritt Keremeos	Forest Licensees Snowmobilers
47	Do other government ministries such as Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Energy and Mines support the NCGBR Plan? We want the Minister of Energy and Mines to endorse the plan.	Other provincial government ministries including the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Energy and Mines are represented on the recovery team. The recovery team's terms of reference were approved by the Forest Practices Joint Steering Committee and the Forest Practices Joint Management Committee approved the commencement of public consultation on the draft recovery plan - both of which include representatives from these ministries. The Interagency Management Committees for both relevant regions were also briefed prior to commencing consultation. The recovery plan will be submitted to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection for approval and it is Minister's prerogative to consult her colleagues if she chooses before making the decision.	PC - 0 SM - 2 WS - 0	Lower Mainland Kamloops	Miners 4WD's

48	Establish a biologist bear recovery position for the North Cascades to effectively integrate bear recovery with various land uses, interact with land users, monitor plan progress, and collect data.	The advantages of hiring an auxiliary biologist (possibly on a seasonal basis) will be considered during plan implementation relative to the alternative of contractor and/or existing staff support.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 2	N/A	Conservationists
49	Did you ever contact people who live and work in the North Cascades about grizzly bear sightings? Your map shows no sightings where many of these people have seen grizzly bear.	Yes, individuals that live and work in the North Cascades have been contacted and the sightings database is updated periodically by a local consultant. See Section 4.6 d): Improve the current system of reporting and tracking grizzly bear sightings. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to include a description of how grizzly bear sightings have been obtained and evaluated for reliability and to include a figure showing a summary of reliable grizzly bear sightings.**	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Tulameen	Citizens
50	This plan is being presented during an election period with a population that is very upset with the government. Provide people with the information, give them time to look at it. It is possible to accommodate grizzly bear and other uses of the land if we keep level heads.	The recovery team agrees that grizzly bear conservation and human land uses can be integrated and that providing effective information to interested parties is critical to the success of the recovery plan. See Section 4.6: Increase scientific and public knowledge of, and support for, grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Merritt	Citizens
51	Information and a questionnaire should be provided in all Parks within the North Cascades to ensure that the citizens of BC can have their say with respect to this plan.	The public consultation process on the draft plan has ended, however, the recovery team agrees that outreach materials for visitors to provincial parks within the North Cascades would be very useful and has begun developing a booklet as well as a questions and answers brochure. See Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the recovery plan. See Section 4.6: Increase scientific and public knowledge of, and support for, grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	Keremeos	Tourist Operator

52	A third party assessment of the recovery plan should be performed periodically.	See Question #33 re: using the results of monitoring and the role of the Liaison Committee. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to indicate that the results of monitoring will be made available to the public on an annual basis and that opportunities for input from the public will be provided.**	PC – 0 SM – 0 WS – 1	N/A	Conservationists

Issue: Hazard/Safety

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
53	We are uncomfortable with augmentation in the Manning/Skagit Parks because recreational use is high and increasing. We are concerned about bear-human conflicts for parks visitors and residents who live nearby. Will there be constant monitoring of the bears? Will residents be advised of nearby bears?	See Section 4.3: Increase the number of grizzly bears to achieve the population goal, Section 4.4: Minimize the potential for grizzly bear/human conflict and Section 5: Monitoring. See Question #33 re: using the results of monitoring and the role of the Liaison Committee. Any grizzly bears released in the North Cascades will be radio-collared and will be monitored regularly with summaries of their locations released to the public. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to limit the maximum number of grizzly bears to be moved into the North Cascades in any year as part of the augmentation strategy to three from five.**	PC – 4 SM – 3 WS – 5	Okanagan Lower Mainland Tulameen Keremeos Manning Park Chilliwack	Horsemen Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens Tourist Operator Miners
54	If the grizzly bears displace the existing black bears and grizzly bears, and drive them to areas populated by humans, what will you do? Will you destroy them?	See Question #2 and 15. Any effects of grizzly bear recovery on black bears are expected to be relatively minor and to occur slowly. Black bear human conflicts will continue to be addressed in the same fashion that they are currently, however, infrastructure improvements and public education efforts seeking to reduce conflicts with grizzly bears are expected to also have a positive influence on reducing the much more common incidence of black bear/human conflicts.	PC – 4 SM – 6 WS – 0	Manning Park Chilliwack Okanagan Lower Mainland Tulameen Merritt Boston Bar	Snowmobilers Miners Horsemen Sportsmen Citizens

55	Has the government considered how it might be liable in the event that someone is maimed or killed by an augmented bear? Are we going to be compensated for injury or death? What if a paying customer of a business operating in the North Cascades is maimed or killed, is the business operator liable?	The risk of a grizzly bear attack on a person is very low. The legal advice provided to Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection on the issue of potential liability resulting from bear attacks anywhere in the province is that, provided it can be demonstrated due diligence has been exercised, there is no liability in the event of an attack. The provincial government does not compensate victims of wildlife attacks. The issue of liability for businesses resulting from an attack on a customer would also depend on the same factors associated with assessing liability as a result of an injury resulting from any other risk to customers.	PC - 5 SM - 2 WS - 3	Princeton Okanagan Tulameen Keremeos Manning Park Chilliwack Merritt	Miners Sportsmen Citizens Tourist Operator
56	What work have you done in relation to predator problems? We have lost the ability to hunt cougar. Human attacks and predation to livestock are an issue. How will grizzlies affect other predators?	See Question #2, 15 and 54 re: black bears and Question #3 re: revising the draft recovery plan to include direction to coordinate grizzly bear recovery work with conservation initiatives for other species, especially species at risk. See Section 4.4: Minimize the potential for grizzly bear/human conflict. Cougar hunting continues to be allowed in the North Cascades. The recovery team believes that grizzly bear recovery will have minor impacts on other wildlife species, including other large carnivores, and that these adjustments will occur slowly.	PC - 1 SM - 4 WS - 2	Chilliwack Tulameen Merritt Keremeos	Sportsmen Citizens Snowmobilers Miners Tourist Operator
57	We are concerned that augmented bears will be problem bears from other areas. Can you assure us that this will not be the case, because the Recovery Plan says you have discretion around this issue?	**The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to make it clear that grizzly bears with any history of conflicts with humans will not be used for population augmentation.** **The recovery team also recommends revising the draft recovery plan to indicate that grizzly bears may also, infrequently, be translocated into (or back into) the North Cascades from surrounding areas such as the Okanagan as a proactive measure to avoid conflicts. See Question #42. Such translocations would not be treated as part of the population augmentation program. The animals involved would be instrumented and monitored if possible and suitable release sites would be selected north of the Coquihalla Highway within the "spine" subunits.**	PC - 2 SM - 2 WS - 3	Okanagan Tulameen Keremeos Pasayten Valley	Sportsmen Citizens Snowmobilers Miners

58	We do not want grizzly bears in our backyard because they are a danger to us, our children and our livestock, especially if food supply is limited.	Grizzly bears already occupy the North Cascades and conflicts are very rare. The recovery team believes that the available evidence clearly indicates that grizzly bears do not represent a significant risk to human safety. This opinion has been supported by the recently completed bear hazard assessment for the protected areas within the augmentation area.	PC - 1 SM - 2 WS - 4	Merritt Princeton Tulameen Keremeos Manning Park	Snowmobilers Citizens Miners
59	What are the sources of mortality for grizzly bears in the North Cascades, roads, hunting, other male grizzly bears, poaching, augmentation?	The two most recent known human-caused grizzly bear mortalities in the North Cascades were a roadkill on the Coquihalla Highway in 2001 and a bear that was shot as a threat to livestock in 1979. Unreported human-caused mortality may have occurred in recent decades as well, including potentially poaching, accidental kills by black bear hunters or bears killed as a result of a real or perceived threat to property or safety. Natural sources of grizzly bear mortality includes starvation of cubs, cannibalism of younger animals by adult males, accidents such as avalanches and old age.	PC - 1 SM - 3 WS - 3	Kamloops Merritt Keremeos Okanagan Lower Mainland	Miners Citizens Snowmobilers Naturalists Sportsmen
60	Will First Nations be able to hunt grizzly bears or be able to have ceremonial or traditional uses and what will you do if they decide to hunt them?	No hunting will be allowed on grizzly bears in the North Cascades until the population recovers which will be a long, slow process.	PC - 0 SM - 5 WS - 1	Chilliwack Keremeos Okanagan Merritt Lower Mainland	Sportsmen Stockbreeders Citizens ATV's Miners
61	Before grizzly bear augmentation commences, are you going to inform people? Inform us each time, about when and where?	The public will be notified when augmentation occurs. See Section 4.3: Increase the number of grizzly bears to achieve the population goal.	PC - 1 SM - 4 WS - 0	Lower Mainland Kamloops Chilliwack Merritt	Snowmobilers Miners Forest Licensees Citizens
62	What happens if I have to kill a grizzly bear? At what point am I allowed to protect myself from a grizzly bear? Will I be charged?	The same standards will apply in the North Cascades as elsewhere in the province. Under common law an individual has a right to defend themselves if they reasonably believe that they or someone else is at risk of being killed or injured by a grizzly bear.	PC - 3 SM - 1 WS - 0	Merritt Keremeos Chilliwack	Stockbreeders Citizens

63	This is an endangered population – no mortality is sustainable. There must be a clear objective in the Recovery Plan of a zero mortality goal. Each mortality, conflict, or incident involving grizzly bears would have to be investigated.	See Section 4.5: Minimize human-caused mortality of grizzly bears and Section 5: Monitoring. The recovery team agrees that zero human-caused mortality of grizzly bears is desirable but believes that this is unrealistic over the period leading to full recovery. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to make it clear any known incidents of human-caused grizzly bear mortality will be investigated.**	PC – 0 SM – 0 WS – 3	N/A	Conservationists
64	What can users of Crown Land operating in grizzly bear country do with respect to increasing their chances for safety?	Information on bear safety is available on the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection website: http://www.gov.bc.ca/wlap/.	PC – 1 SM – 1 WS – 0	Lower Mainland Manning Park	4WD's Citizens
65	Some residents bordering the Manning Park area do not adequately manage for bear attractants (garbage), how do we deal with this issue in light of grizzly bear augmentation?	See Section 4.3: Increase the number of grizzly bears to achieve the population goal. The hazard assessment work for the augmentation area has been expanded to include the Sunshine Valley, Eastgate and Pasayten Valley communities in order to address this issue. Augmentation will not occur until the recovery team is satisfied hazard issues have been addressed.	PC – 2 SM – 0 WS – 0	Manning Park Chilliwack	Citizens
66	The Trans-Canada and the Snass Creek Trail goes through the North Cascades. How will you deal with bear-human conflicts along these trails?	See Section 4.4: Minimize the potential for grizzly bear/human conflict. A bear hazard assessment has recently been completed for the protected areas within the augmentation area and specifically addressed the issue of population augmentation. Recommendations have been provided for reducing the potential for bear/human conflicts. Specifically regarding these trails, infrastructure improvements may be made such as providing bear caches at campsites, trail sections may be altered to increase sight lines or re-routed to avoid areas of greater potential for encounters and information will be provided to the public on bear safety and avoiding conflicts. Grizzly bears moved into the North Cascades as a result of population augmentation will be monitored as will sightings of other grizzly bears and, to the degree possible, park users will be informed when bears are in a given area.	PC – 1 SM – 1 WS – 0	Okanagan Chilliwack	Sportsmen Citizens

67	Are grizzly bear more dangerous than black bear? How many complaints are there for black bears versus grizzly bears?	An individual encounter with a grizzly bear is potentially more dangerous than an encounter with a black bear, however, the risk is still very small. In the last ten years there are on average 8,649 black bear complaints and 310 grizzly bear complaints in British Columbia.	PC – 0 SM – 2 WS – 0	Merritt	Local government Stockbreeders
68	In relation to your risk assessment process in the recovery plan, can you expand on the types of hazards (i.e., spring habitat, den sites, mother with cubs, etc.) with respect to grizzly bears?	Bear hazard assessment deals with the likelihood of encounters such as along trails through high quality habitat with short sightlines as a result of being attracted to non-natural food sources such as garbage.	PC – 1 SM – 0 WS – 0	Chilliwack	Citizens
69	What will Manning Park do with respect to enforcement to deal with grizzly bear and black bears?	These issues are being addressed in a Bear Management Plan which is currently being developed for E.C. Manning Provincial Park.	PC – 1 SM – 0 WS – 0	Manning Park	Citizens
70	How many grizzly bear livestock kills are actually reported, how do we really know?	See Section 4.4 m) re: establishing a compensation program for livestock losses to grizzly bears. A specific estimate of the number of livestock killed by grizzly bears each year in British Columbia is not available.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Merritt	Stockbreeders
71	How will you minimize conflicts with livestock?	See Section 4.4: Minimize the potential for grizzly bear/human conflict.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Merritt	Forest Licensees
72	Is there any reason why grizzly bears in a threatened population unit would act any differently than grizzly bears in a viable population unit, when it comes to interacting with humans?	There is no evidence to suggest that grizzly bear behaviour in threatened populations differs from that in viable populations.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Merritt	Snowmobilers
73	Are the bait stations used in the DNA study marked in the field so people don't trip over them?	Bait stations were marked during the DNA inventory and during a subsequent capture effort and will be marked in the future if similar work	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Okanagan	Miners

Issue: Access

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
74	Are you going to close areas through deactivation and gating for hunters, recreationists, back country horsemen, snowmobilers, motorcyclists, 4WD, ATV users? And what authority does the recovery team have to do this? Specifically noted: • Whipsaw motorized trail • Tulameen and Upper Tulameen • Jacobson Lake • Champion Creek • Copper Creek • Palmer Lake • Placer Mountain and Lake • Railroad Creek • Arrastra Creek	See Section 4.1.4 c) re: access management planning. The access management planning process will involved the stakeholders with an interest in a given sub-unit and will seek solutions that balance all interests, including grizzly bear conservation. The recovery team does not have the authority to control access, any such decisions would lie with the Statutory Decision-makers identified under specific legislation such as Ministry of Forests District Managers.	PC – 3 SM – 9 WS – 6	Manning Park Chilliwack Lower Mainland Keremeos Merritt Princeton Tulameen Okanagan Hope	Snowmobilers 4WD's Sportsmen Horsemen Citizens Tourist Operator Motorcyclists

75	Are you going to be putting up gates, deactivating roads, and even stopping roads from being constructed? If so this is of concern. Is the objective to cut off all back road access (see sections 4.12 and page 17 of the recovery plan)? It seems the plan has a budget specifically for deactivation. We need and want roads for many reasons: recreation; fire protection; resource extraction; etc. On the other hand we want existing road restrictions (i.e. Vuich Creek) maintained.	See Question #74. The construction of access control structures such as gates and road deactivation will occur if the plan is approved and implemented, however, these activities will be subject to public consultation. See Section 4.1.4: Habitat Effectiveness at the Landscape Scale. The intent is to maintain access levels at 1999 levels with the "spine" units of the North Cascades. It is recognized that roads are required for many activities, the intent of the plan is simply to ensure that access impacts do not increase over time and that new roads are balanced with road deactivation or access control elsewhere (based on stakeholder input through access management planning).	PC – 3 SM – 8 WS – 3	Lower Mainland Okanagan Merritt Tulameen Kamloops Chilliwack	4WD's Miners Horsemen Stockbreeders Sportsmen Citizens
76	Access management equals gates and reduced numbers of roads, without good reasons. We have seen the road closure signs already go up. These signs are not specifically restricting access between April to October. Why has this occurred if the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan is only a proposal?	See Question #74. Gates established to date in the Merritt Forest District for grizzly bear conservation reasons were the result of the Forest Development Planning process and have been left open pending further stakeholder consultation. The interim approach prior to the recovery plan being approved was intended to apply to newly constructed roads only within specific areas. Under the recovery plan the intent is for access controls on any existing roads to be guided by access management planning that directly involves stakeholders.	PC – 4 SM – 6 WS – 2	Princeton Keremeos Lower Mainland Okanagan Merritt Kamloops Tulameen	4WD's Miners Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens

77	Are you going to include stakeholders in access management planning? And if so how will the stakeholder be advised to ensure they are included - we want continued access. And what happens if Ministry of Forests (government) doesn't consider stakeholders' concerns? Will free miners be given 7 day /24 hour access to keys for gated roads? Who will co-ordinate the access management issue, and who be accountable? Helmar Lake access strategy held up as a good example of many agencies and users agreeing to a process.	See Question #74. A stakeholder list has been developed through the consultation process on the draft recovery plan and will be used, in conjunction with additional information on stakeholders from the relevant provincial government agencies, to ensure that the appropriate groups and individuals are involved in access management planning. The recovery team does not have the authority to fetter a Statutory Decision-maker with respect to access management, however, approved access management plans are expected to play a substantial role in informing their decisions. Access beyond closed gates will be provided to individuals that require it to access a tenure. Access management planning will be coordinated by the recovery team. The Statutory Decision-makers will ultimately be accountable for their decisions with respect to access management.	PC - 3 SM - 5 WS - 3	Lower Mainland Okanagan Kamloops Princeton Manning Park Chilliwack	Miners 4WD's Sportsmen Citizens ATV's
78	How much human/vehicle use (frequency) will a grizzly bear tolerate around roads? Is noise a related issue? And how does the 500 metres on either side of roads factor in? Is there a difference between motorized and non-motorized use?	The level of human activity, including traffic volume, that will impact grizzly bears varies between individual bears and on the specific circumstances. Impacts are believed to begin occurring at even the lowest traffic volume levels. Noise is believed to be a factor in the disturbance effect of roads on grizzly bears and this is related to that fact that non-motorized uses are believed to have less impact. The consideration of areas within 500 meters of roads as being impacted in terms of their habitat effectiveness is based on the available research that has demonstrated grizzly bear avoidance of areas in proximity of roads and increased human-caused mortality rates for grizzly bears in these areas.	PC - 4 SM - 5 WS - 0	Lower Mainland Okanagan Merritt Chilliwack Hope Princeton Boston Bar	4WD's Miners Snowmobilers Forest Licensees Citizens

79	There must be more access restrictions to exclude any form of motorized use and also exclude high non-motorized use within the 'core area'.	See Section 4.1.4 i) In appropriate areas, consult with stakeholders on establishing regulations to limit the recreational use of motorized vehicles in Core Areas from April 1 to October 31. See Section 4.1.5 d) Develop a model of habitat effectiveness and assess whether or not additional measures to maintain or improve habitat effectiveness are necessary in order to achieve the recovery goal over the long-term. The recovery team agrees that the management of human impacts within Core Areas is an important issue to be addressed during the implementation of the recovery plan.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 5	Lower Mainland Princeton Manning Park	Naturalists Conservationists Citizens
80	By saying you are going to maintain existing road density, does that imply for every new road opened, one must be closed?	Although the measure used will not be individual roads but the change in Core Area and High Open Road Density Area, the premise is that as new roads are constructed within the "spine" sub-units that effect these measures, access management will be undertaken elsewhere to counterbalance the impact on grizzly bears. Through the access management planning process, including stakeholders, the intent is to develop a plan whereby access management is implemented where necessary to offset any loss of Core Area or increase in High Open Road Density Area resulting from new roads.	PC - 0 SM - 4 WS - 0	Okanagan Keremeos Princeton	Miners Stockbreeders Sportsmen Citizens
81	Not all roads are equal and we want that recognized in any access management plan. Small roads and trails should be exempt from "core area" in any access management plan. Also the concept of moving road access in place and time does not address existing circle routes, has access management been tried elsewhere in BC?	The recovery team agrees that roads and trails should be treated differently based on their level of human use and the nature of the use (i.e, motorized or non-motorized). The recovery team does not agree that motorized roads or trails should be exempt from Core Areas as this conflicts with the available information on the impacts of motorized access on grizzly bears and the fundamental definition of a Core Area. See Section 4.1.4 g) Avoid connecting road networks over the height of land between watersheds. Access management planning has been used across the province to integrate and coordinate access development.	PC - 0 SM - 2 WS - 1	Lower Mainland Kamloops	Miners 4WD's Motorcyclists

82	With respect to access management we recommend that Ministry of Energy and Mines maps, showing existing mining tenures, be used in decision making. They seem to be ignored or forgotten as a valuable source of information.	The recovery team has referred to a map of mineral tenures and mineral potential during the development of the draft recovery plan and agrees that this information should be considered during access management planning.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Kamloops Tulameen	Miners Citizens
83	Are you going to analyze the impacts to grizzly bears caused by off-roaders (4WD, ATV)?	See Section 4.1.5 d) Develop a model of habitat effectiveness and assess whether or not additional measures to maintain or improve habitat effectiveness are necessary in order to achieve the recovery goal over the long-term.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 1	Lower Mainland	4WD's Conservationists
84	Why don't you carry out further studies before you put access restrictions in place because of grizzly bears? Where are the data to back the conclusion that non-recreational uses (timber, livestock, mining, etc.) are less harmful to grizzlies than recreational uses.	The recovery team is confident that the available information supports the need to address the current and potential future impacts of access on grizzly bears through the strategies described in the draft recovery plan. It will be much easier to take action now to address impacts than in the future. The recovery team has not made the conclusion that recreational uses have greater impact on grizzly bears than non-recreational uses. **The recovery team recommends revising Section 4.1.4 i) to indicate that the strategy applies to all motorized use.**	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 1	Merritt Okanagan	Citizens Miners
85	Road restrictions under the *Wildlife Act* pose unacceptable delays and obstacles to commercial users, we do not support access management under this Act.	See Question #84.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Kamloops	Miners
86	Can radio collaring assist us with access management planning?	Yes, monitoring of grizzly bear activity will provide information on grizzly bear response to human activity as well as to access management actions and will help identify important areas to consider during access management planning based on grizzly bear use.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Kamloops	Miners

87	We are alright with short term road closures, but you must let us know in advance.	The recovery team agrees that effective stakeholder consultation is critical to the success of access management.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Tulameen	Citizens
88	If access management keeps people out of the spine area of the North Cascades, won't you be creating access problems in other parts of the North Cascades by displacing users?	The intent of the draft recovery plan is not to displace people from the "spine" area.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Keremeos	Stockbreeders
89	Long-term road closures (10+ years) could eliminate the use of that road in future due to vegetation re-growth, etc.	The level of road deactivation that will occur on closed roads will vary depending on the circumstances (guided by access management planning). This could range from no deactivation at all to permanent deactivation with recontouring and vegetation being re-established.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Lower Mainland	4WD's
90	As a stakeholder within the North Cascades I have never been approached or consulted about a road closure, deactivation or other access strategy. It is hard to believe in your access management strategy	See Question #74, 76 and 77.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Chilliwack	Citizens
91	Can the commercial resource users provide the gate(s) where road closures are necessary to ensure access is maintained for their specific purposes? We would then be responsible for monitoring use.	The recovery team believes that this approach may be appropriate in some circumstances and should be considered on a case-by-case basis during access management planning. It is important to recognize that both recreational and non-recreational motorized access needs to managed and that motorized use of such roads would preclude the surrounding area from being considered a "Core Area".	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Kamloops	Miners
92A	How can we know that access management (effort and time, money) will address the constraining factors for bears? Will it have an effect in the short term?	See Question #84. The short-term effect of access management on grizzly bears will be difficult to measure given the small size of the population, the benefit is to the long-term viability of the population given the available information on the impacts of roads on grizzly bears and the current status of the North Cascades population including current access levels.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Merritt	Forest Licensees

92B	Will restrictions on access, such as road deactivation, conform with higher level plans?	See Question #30. Where the recovery plan and an approved land use plan conflict, the land use plan will take precedence.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	Okanagan	Miners

Issue: Augmentation

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
93	How will the grizzly bears be physically moved, and where will they come from? What is a suitable bear? Won't the removal of bears from another population unit have an effect on that population?	See Section 4.3: Increase the number of grizzly bears to achieve the population goal. Grizzly bears used for augmentation may be moved by helicopter or by truck depending on the logistics involved once a source area(s) has been chosen. The source areas will be Viable grizzly bear populations occupying similar ecological conditions. Suitable grizzly bears will be subadults or young adults, will have no history of conflicts with humans and will not be accustomed to feeding on seasonal concentrations of salmon. The animals that are translocated will be inspected by a wildlife veterinarian who will also be involved in planning the capture, transport and release to ensure their welfare. The impact of removing animals from the source population(s) will be considered. If the source population is in an area where grizzly bear hunting is allowed, the animals used will be deducted from the allowable harvest.	PC - 6 SM - 8 WS - 3	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Merritt Hope Tulameen Princeton Boston Bart Manning Park Keremeos	Sportsmen Horsemen Snowmobilers Citizens ATV's Naturalists Miners Conservationists

94	Do relocated bears stay in the area or do they go back to where they came from? (i.e., how successful is it)? How far will an augmented grizzly bear range before it adopts a territorial area? Exactly how do you plan to 'manage' a bear, they don't stay put like a tree? If they do wander away will you just keep augmenting bears? If you augment bears into the same area for 5 years won't they displace those previously augmented? Are you going to feed augmented bears?	Grizzly/brown bears that have been translocated in the past as part of population augmentation or reintroduction programs have not tended to attempt to return to the source population. This approach has been used successfully in Montana, Austria and Italy to assist the recovery of grizzly/brown bear populations. Grizzly bears used for population augmentation will be radio-collared and monitored regularly. If necessary animals will be conditioned to avoid human-dominated areas using cracker shells, rubber bullets etc., re-captured, translocated or destroyed. The results of population augmentation will be considered annually before deciding on how to proceed, including minimizing the risk that any new animals released will displace or impact the animals already present. See Question # 33. The recovery team does not intend, as a general approach, to feed grizzly bears released for population augmentation but may consider short-term approaches if circumstances warrant it (i.e. placing a roadkill in an isolated area occupied by one of these animals).	PC - 4 SM - 6 WS - 6	Lower Mainland Princeton Keremeos Tulameen Manning Park Chilliwack Okanagan Merritt	Snowmobilers Miners Horsemen Stockbreeders Citizens Tourist Operator Conservationists Sportsmen
95	How do the radio collars work and what type do you use? Aren't radio collars highly intrusive to the grizzly bear? How long is a bear collared for? Can we have access to radio tracking information? Are collars bear specific?	Radio collars are specific to each individual animal. The two major types that may be used in the North Cascades are Global Positioning System (GPS) collars and Very High Frequency (VHF) collars. The collars allow wildlife biologist to locate the animals wearing them. The impact of radio collars on animals is minimized by using an appropriate collar that is relatively light weight and by including a "rot-off" section to allow the collar to drop off the animal after a few years. A radio collars will last for two to three years or more and can be replaced repeatedly. See Question #53 re: releasing information on the locations of grizzly bears translocated into the North Cascades for population augmentation.	PC - 4 SM - 8 WS - 0	Chilliwack Okanagan Lower Mainland Tulameen Kamloops Merritt Hope Manning Park	Snowmobilers Miners Horsemen Sportsmen Forest Licensees Citizens Naturalists

96	Without your forage analysis being completed, how can you decide on the number of bears for augmentation? Aren't you doing it backwards?	See Appendix 5: Total and Core Area Habitat Capability by Sub-Unit in the North Cascades GBPU. The analysis shown in this appendix indicates that the augmentation area has the capability to support approximately 44 grizzly bears under ideal conditions and that the Core Areas alone within the augmentation area have the capability to support approximately 37 grizzly bears. The recovery team is attempting to conduct the forage supply analysis for the augmentation area prior to commencing augmentation, however, the availability of suitable quality habitat mapping may preclude this.	PC - 3 SM - 1 WS - 3	Tulameen Keremeos Boston Bar Kamloops	Citizens Snowmobilers Miners Forest Licensees NCES
97	For the North Cascades is there a number between 17 (present population) and 150 (goal) that might work? 150, seems like a lot for an area the size of the North Cascades. Do we really need to augment 5 bears for 5 years?	The recovery team believes that a population goal of 150 is reasonable and that the density of grizzly bears in the North Cascades will be low even when recovery is achieved. However, the population goal can be reconsidered based on the experience gained when the recovery plan is revised every five years. See Question # 53 re: reducing the maximum number of grizzly bears to be used for population augmentation in any year from five to three.	PC - 2 SM - 3 WS - 0	Merritt Lower Mainland Tulameen Keremeos Chilliwack	Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens First Nations
98	When will the augmentation of grizzlies occur? Have you augmented bears already? How difficult is it?	See Section 4.3: Increase the number of grizzly bears to achieve the population goal. Population augmentation has not begun and will not occur until the recovery plan is approved and the recovery team is satisfied that the necessary work to reduce the likelihood of bear/human conflicts in the augmentation area has been completed. Grizzly bears are captured regularly for research and management purposes and are also routinely transported for translocation.	PC - 3 SM - 2 WS - 0	Chilliwack Tulameen Hope Lower Mainland	Snowmobilers Horsemen Citizens

99	What is the available habitat in the augmentation area for grizzly bears - will it keep the bears in that area? Are the best huckleberry patches there? Can you assure us this is the best habitat versus least used resource area?	See Question #96. The augmentation area was chosen based on the criteria described in Section 4.3 b).	PC - 2 SM - 1 WS - 1	Keremeos Tulameen Kamloops	Citizens Snowmobilers Forest Licensees
100	Your augmentation program will increase the population 100% in only 5 years, that is pretty remarkable. Your goal of 250-300 bears is very high.	The population is predicted to approximately double because of the small number of grizzly bears currently estimated in the North Cascades. The population goal is 150 grizzly bears, not 250-300 which is the habitat capability of the population unit.	PC - 1 SM - 2 WS - 0	Okanagan Merritt	Miners Sportsmen Citizens
101	Will all grizzly bears be tagged and collared? Will the offspring also be collared?	All grizzly bears used for population augmentation will be radio collared and monitored. Any future offspring may also be radio collared and monitored as well if possible and practical.	PC - 1 SM - 2 WS - 0	Chilliwack Tulameen	Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens
102	What percent of the total area of the North Cascades does the augmentation area represent?	See Appendix 5: Total and Core Area Habitat Capability by Sub-Unit in the North Cascades GBPU and Question #94. The augmentation area is 1,324 km^2 or 13.5% of the land area of the population unit.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 1	Keremeos Kamloops	Citizens Miners
103	Sub-adult females are typically used for augmentation because males range further from augmented areas and are more prone to conflict with humans. How will the recovery plan ensure that enough males are present in the North Cascades to breed with the females?	Population augmentation will include males as well as female grizzly bears. Ideally approximately 2/3 of the animals used for augmentation will be females. Grizzly bears release will be monitored including the reproduction of females. If there is evidence that reproduction of females is being negatively impacted by the absence or rarity of adult males population augmentation may be shifted to favour more males (this is considered very unlikely).	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 1	Keremeos	First Nations Conservationists

104	There should be no augmentation until habitat recovery (70% of each population sub-unit is core area) and protection measures (stopping cumulative impacts to the landbase) are well defined, and thresholds have been established.	The recovery team disagrees and notes that the augmentation area currently has over 80% of its habitat capability within Core Areas and is largely comprised of protected areas. See Section 4.1.5 d) Develop a model of habitat effectiveness and assess whether or not additional measures to maintain or improve habitat effectiveness are necessary in order to achieve the recovery goal over the long-term.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 2	N/A	Conservationists
105	Where has augmentation worked and not worked?	See Question #94.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Keremeos Lower Mainland	Horsemen Citizens
106	The plan states that augmentation will only occur after consultation with the public and stakeholders. If stakeholders disapprove of augmentation we want assurance that the augmentation will not be carried out. Please confirm.	See Question # 53 re: reducing the maximum number of grizzly bears to be used for population augmentation in any year from five to three. The decision on whether to approve the recovery plan will be made by the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection based on the recommendations from the recovery team and the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Taskforce after they have considered the input received during the consultation process.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	Pasayten Valley	Citizens

Issue: Plan Content

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
107	We find your analysis of Hudson Bay Company historical records, subsequent population estimations of sightings, DNA analysis, habitat capability maps, as well as maps regarding extirpated, and threatened grizzly bear populations in BC, to lack credibility. Can we have access to this data? We believe more scientific rigour is needed to support the data and assumptions contained in the recovery plan.	See Question #14 re: sightings, see Question #41 re: peer review and Question #33 re: monitoring. The recovery team is confident in the scientific foundation of draft recovery plan. The draft plan cites the supporting scientific literature and data that it is based on and the recovery team has no basis for altering that in the absence of more reliable information which has not been provided. The scientific data held by the provincial government that supports the draft recovery plan can be released to the public through the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to include more detail on its scientific foundations including the analysis of historic records, sightings, inventory and habitat capability.**	PC - 3 SM - 7 WS - 7	Okanagan Kamloops Keremeos Merritt Princeton Tulameen	Miners Sportsmen Snowmobilers Stockbreeders Citizens Conservationists Forest Licensees

108	There is a noticeable absence of bear sightings in the Manning Park/Skagit Park area, as well as other areas in which salmon are available (Coquihalla, Boston Bar Creek and Anderson River) within the North Cascades. Is that because the habitat is not suitable? We suspect this to be the case because there is much less human disturbance (i.e. , roads and trails) in areas without sightings, than where your map shows sightings (Tulameen). Could this suggest that we really don't understand grizzly bear behaviour?	See Question #1 and 96 re: habitat quality in the North Cascades generally and in the augmentation area specifically. The recovery team agrees that lack of sightings in some areas may be due in part to low levels of human activity but believes that the available information supports the contention that there is little grizzly bear activity in these areas. Bear hazard assessment work in the augmentation area has confirmed both the quality of the habitat in the area as well as the absence of grizzly bear sign such as rub trees, tracks, scat etc.	CP - 4 SM - 6 WS - 1	Chilliwack Okanagan Keremeos Princeton Kamloops Tulameen Pasayten Valley	Sportsmen Miners Stockbreeders Citizens Forest Licensees

109	Where would one report grizzly bear sightings? Sightings noted for: • Falls Lake • Toll booth Coquihalla • Deer Mountain • 2 different females in Lawless Creek • 7 in Pasayten • Mount Davis 1992 • Thynne Mountain 1996 • Garrison Lakes • Crater Mountain (Ashnola) • IR #13 • Three Lakes • Joe Lake • Nahatlatch - grizzly + 2 cubs • Mohawkam Road - adult grizzly, 1999 • South Ridge Manning Park - grizzly + 2 cubs • Jacobson (HBC trail) - 1988 - cub	Sightings can be reported to Matt Austin, Large Carnivore Specialist by e-mail at Matt.Austin@gems7.gov.bc.ca or by telephone at (250) 387-9799. An update of the sightings database in currently underway.	PC - 1 SM - 6 WS - 0	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Okanagan Hope Merritt Tulameen	4WD's Snowmobilers Sportsmen Miners Forest Licensees Citizens

110	Definitions or clarity is needed around the following terms used in the Recovery Plan: • motorized trail • open road • unoccupied • threatened *legal use is different, *common usage by Ministry of Environment is different, *confusing • 'disposing of Crown Land' • 'spine' vs 'core' vs augmentation' area • 'efforts to reduce conflicts' – be specific • 'habitat capability' vs 'suitability' vs 'effectiveness' • 'necessary work to reduce bear-human conflicts' Item 4.3 – give specifics • 'sustainable access' page 8 of plan – clarify • road deactivation – give specific examples	**The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan by expanding the Glossary to include the terms on this list that are currently absent where appropriate and by including explanatory text within the document as necessary.**	PC – 1 SM – 1 WS – 4	Merritt Okanagan	Miners Conservationists Citizens
111	Why bother recovering grizzly bear in the North Cascades when we have so many (13,000) in the rest of BC?	See Question #34 re: selection of the North Cascades as the first pilot for recovery planning. The Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy has committed the province to maintaining grizzly bears throughout their range, especially cross-border shared populations such as the North Cascades.	PC – 1 SM – 3 WS – 0	Lower Mainland Okanagan Keremeos	Snowmobilers Sportsmen Citizens

112	We are unsure about your habitat capability map – does this indicate capability given ideal conditions? What about the difference between potential capability and existing capability? And how does that capability consider other wildlife species needs? How does it incorporate human impacts? We question using habitat capability to determine grizzly bear population figures.	See Section 6: Glossary. See Question #107 re: revising the plan to include greater detail on its scientific foundations. The recovery team believes that habitat capability is a reasonable basis for setting the population goal but notes that the goal is only 50% of the minimum habitat capability calculated for the North Cascades which accounts for the fact that habitat suitability and effectiveness is lower than habitat capability and limits potential population size.	PC – 0 SM – 3 WS – 0	Okanagan Keremeos	Miners Sportsmen Stockbreeders
113	Without securing 'core areas' (i.e. ones that don't change in space or time) for the long term, grizzly bears will remain subordinate to 'current management practices'. Therefore, the strategy as proposed for 'core area' cannot lead to a scientifically sound recovery for the grizzly bear.	The recovery team agrees that permanent Core Areas are more desirable than temporary Core Areas if grizzly bear conservation is considered in isolation. The recovery team also believes, however, that other considerations including existing human uses must be considered as well in order to develop a successful plan. The recovery team believes that the approach proposed in the draft recovery plan represents a reasonable balance between the interests of grizzly bear conservation and of human needs for access. Monitoring, annual reviews and adjustments in implementation as well as revisions of the recovery plan every five years will allow the strategies used to be adapted as necessary over time to facilitate the recovery of the population.	PC – 0 SM – 0 WS – 3	N/A	Conservationists

114	The 'core area' definition in the plan is inadequate. Core areas are intended to provide security for grizzly bears. Any use of existing access displaces bears and violates the purpose and function of a 'core area'.	See Question #81. See 4.1.5 c) Assess levels of human use(e.g. traffic volume and seasonal timing, use of recreational trails) within the North Cascades GBPU. See Section 4.1.5 d) Develop a model of habitat effectiveness and assess whether or not additional measures to maintain or improve habitat effectiveness are necessary in order to achieve the recovery goal over the long-term. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to clarify the intent that roads and trails that receive motorized use above an very low level (to be based on similar thresholds used in other jurisdictions) allowing for administrative and maintenance use will be excluded from Core Area calculations. The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan as necessary based on the results of practices in other jurisdictions with respect to how high use non-motorized trails are addressed in Core Area calculations.**	PC – 0 SM – 0 WS – 3	N/A	Conservationists NCES
115	If the North Cascades grizzly bear population is so small why is it not possible to monitor them or precisely determine their numbers?	It is very difficult to directly determine grizzly bear numbers for an area in most circumstances but low density populations such as the North Cascades are especially challenging. Whether efforts to estimate the size of the population would be expected to be expensive, time-consuming and ultimately would not be expected to alter the basic requirements for recovery to occur.	PC – 1 SM – 1 WS – 0	Hope Tulameen	Sportsmen Citizens
116	What percent of the 'spine' is park?	Protected areas comprise 16.9% of the North Cascades as a whole. Approximately 19% of the "spine" area is protected.	PC – 1 SM – 0 WS – 0	Keremeos	Citizens
117	What is the human population in the North Cascades recovery plan area? And how much human-bear interaction has there been in the past in the North Cascades? Any statistics?	See Section 8.2: Appendix 2. Description of land use activities in the North Cascades. See Question *58, 65 and 66 re: bear hazard assessment.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 0	Merritt	Citizens

118	What other areas in BC can you compare your future North Cascades grizzly bear densities too? And, for those areas, what is the experience with: • access management issues and solutions; • human-bear conflicts.	The greatest similarity to future situation of the North Cascades as recovery proceeds is in the Kootenays where significant numbers of people live and recreate near and among grizzly bear populations at equal and higher densities. Significant strides have been made in the areas of both access management and bear/human conflicts in the Kootenays as well as elsewhere and the intent is that this experience will be adapted to the North Cascades.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Okanagan	Sportsmen
119	The recovery plan's goal should go further than just removing the population from threatened status. It should recover viability (i.e. - self-sustaining in perpetuity) by providing effective habitat.	Long-term viability is the goal of the draft recovery plan and this is based on providing sufficient effective habitat. The translation of the population goal into an estimated number of animals will be revisited over time as the recovery plan is revised and more information is available. There is considerable uncertainty over what represents a "self-sustaining" or viable population that includes issues such as the level of demographic connectivity to other populations which is another area of focus in the draft recovery plan.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	N/A	Conservationists

Issue: Funding

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
120	How is this program being funded. On an annual basis, how much has been spent and, will be spent in the future? How does this equate to a cost per bear? Please clarify all expenditures: materials; salaries (all ministries); hired labour; travel expenditures; consultation fees; reports; etc.	See Section 8.6: Work Plans and Section 8.7: Potential Funding Sources fir Implementation of the Recovery Plan. The majority of funding to date has been from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and Forest Renewal BC. The recovery team is focused on the recovery of the population and has not calculated a "cost per bear" nor does it believe that such a number would be relevant, especially in the absence of calculating the economic benefits of a having a healthy grizzly bear population in the North Cascades. The recovery team does not have an accounting of every expenditure related to grizzly bear recovery but estimates the non-staff costs to be approximately $200,000 to date.	PC - 6 SM - 8 WS - 2	Chilliwack Okanagan Lower Mainland Princeton Merritt Manning Park Tulameen Keremeos	Sportsmen Miners Horsemen Stockbreeders Citizens ATV's Snowmobilers
121	Is funding for this plan coming from Hunting Licence fees, and if so how much of your plan is being funded this way? Is there going to be an increase in Hunting Licence fees?	The majority of funding to date has been from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund surcharge on black bear and grizzly bear hunting licences. There is no plan to increase these surcharges associated with grizzly bear recovery.	PC - 3 SM - 2 WS - 1	Lower Mainland Merritt Tulameen Keremeos Chilliwack	4WD's Stockbreeders Citizens
122	We are concerned with the lack of government funding and are not comfortable having outside groups, fund and in turn drive the agenda of this plan. Non-government funding must be transparent to the public.	The recovery team will seek partnerships in implementing the recovery plan and proposes to review these partnerships with the Liaison Committee (see Question #29). Any partnerships that are developed, however, must be consistent with the approved recovery plan. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to clarify that the annual newsletter will be made available to the public and that it will include acknowledgement of funding provided by non-government sources.**	PC - 1 SM - 3 WS - 2	Chilliwack Merritt Tulameen Okanagan Manning Park	Sportsmen Stockbreeders Citizens Naturalists Miners

123	There seem to be many higher priorities for spending taxpayer dollars, e.g. health care, rather that on grizzly bear recovery.	See Question #120 and 121 re: funding. The recovery team is not in a position to comment on relative government funding priorities but notes that implementation of the recovery plan is intended to be funded primarily by non-government sources as has the development of the draft plan. Wildlife is very important to many British Columbians and is a major attraction for many visitors to the province. Grizzly bears specifically have been described as an icon and symbol of wilderness and are closely associated with many of the attributes of the province that both British Columbians and visitors to the province value.	PC - 1 SM - 3 WS - 0	Princeton Merritt Manning Park Keremeos	Stockbreeders Citizens Snowmobilers
124	Is the United States funding this plan?	Funding to date had not been provided by any U.S. government agencies.	PC - 1 SM - 2 WS - 1	Lower Mainland Princeton Tulameen Okanagan	Horsemen Miners Stockbreeders Citizens
125	Inadequate government funding, leads to inadequate management and enforcement, which leads to closing down access. Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks doesn't have a large enough budget to deal with black bears, how are they going to deal with grizzly bears?	See Question 120, 121 and 122.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Chilliwack	Sportsmen Citizens
126	Why is there no budget for determining effective habitat capability?	The recovery team believes that it needs to take direct responsibility in the development of the habitat effectiveness model, however, it aggress that contract support may also be needed. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to include funding for the development of the habitat effectiveness model and particularly for compiling and periodically updating the information on human activities that the model will be based on.**	PC - 0 SM - 2 WS - 0	Okanagan	Sportsmen Miners

127	We need assurance from government that adequate staff and budget will be provided to monitor this plan and provide protection to citizens.	While long-term commitments on funding or staffing levels are not possible, under no circumstances will the recovery team or the provincial government allow public safety to be compromised during the recovery process.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 1	Princeton	Citizens Conservationists
128	Some of the access management costs are being downloaded onto forest licensees, are they going to be compensated for this? This recovery plan impacts some forest licensees more than others.	See Question #40 re: clarifying that financial assistance will be provided to assist tenures holders with the costs of access management.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Merritt	Forest Licensees
129	Tax payers' money is first used to construct a road, then again to deactivate the road. Isn't this a waste of money?	Access management is often necessary for wide variety of reasons including saving money on road maintenance, fish and wildlife conservation and recreation (i.e. providing opportunities for non-motorized recreation).	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Kamloops	Miners
130	Non-government agencies, like Greenpeace, should be helping to fund this program, after all they are responsible for the implementation of the moratorium on grizzly bears.	See Section 8.7: Potential Funding Sources for Implementation of the Recovery Plan and Question #. Partnerships with non-government organizations will be pursued where appropriate and funding has already been committed from at least one organization.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Hope	Sportsmen
131	Why encourage only non-governmental organizations to establish a program? Isn't a healthy grizzly ecosystem a societal goal?	The Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has a policy that it will not provide compensation for property damage caused by wildlife, however, funding for compensation programs is potentially available from the Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative established by the provincial and federal ministries of agriculture. For more information see the following website: http://www.bcac.bc.ca/. **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to indicate that support for a livestock compensation program will be sought through government and/or non-government funding sources.**	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	N/A	Conservationists

Issue: Crown Land Users

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
132	What impacts will there be to licensed users of Crown Land and their employees (i.e., timber (AAC), mining, ranching, tourist operators, helicopter companies), especially in core areas - this does not seem to be clearly stated in the plan - wording is ambiguous. Are these operations going to be shut down? Will there be compensation, i.e. for lost opportunities?	See Question #40 re: cost and timber supply impacts. The recovery plan itself does not force any future decisions, it simply informs them from the perspective of the needs of grizzly bear conservation. The recovery team is not aware of any existing operations in the North Cascades that would be "shut down" through the implementation of the draft recovery plan. Compensation for lost opportunities where proposals are not deemed to be in the public interest is not provided by the provincial government.	PC - 3 SM - 10 WS - 7	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Okanagan Hope Merritt Princeton Keremeos Tulameen Kamloops	Sportsmen 4WD's Miners Snowmobilers Stockbreeders Forest Licensees Citizens
133	On Crown lands including Parks, what will be the impact on recreational users such as motorcyclists, backcountry horsemen, hunters, picnickers, mountain bikers, hikers, 4WD/ATVers, snowmobilers? Are the parks going to be closed? Will there be closures on trails?	The draft recovery plan includes strategies that will influence recreational uses in ways that, depending on the situation and an individual's interests may be seen as either positive or negative. The single biggest issue is access management which will be addressed through a consultation process that considers stakeholder interests. Short-term trail or area closures to reduce the potential for bear/human conflicts will likely occur for grizzly bears (i.e. in a situation where a grizzly bear is feeding on an ungulate carcass near a trail) but are expected to be rare. Such closures already occur periodically as a result of black bear activity.	PC - 3 SM - 10 WS - 4	Merritt Chilliwack Lower Mainland Okanagan Keremeos Manning Park	Motorcyclists Citizens Local government Snowmobilers Sportsmen 4WD's Miners Horsemen

134	Will ranchers who graze livestock on Crown land be compensated for livestock losses caused by grizzly bears? We are concerned about a special interest group privately funding compensation for many reasons. Will horse owners be compensated for the loss of a horse? Compensation needs to recognize full costs, not partial costs. Compensation should be viewed as a last resort, we would rather see predator management.	See Section 4.4 m) re: establishing a compensation program for livestock losses to grizzly bears. See question 40, 70, 71 and 131 re: livestock compensation. Although the incidence of horses being killed by grizzly bears is extremely rare, the intent is that the livestock compensation program would include any such confirmed loss of a horse. The recovery team agrees that prevention of conflicts with livestock should be emphasized as opposed to relying entirely on compensation. See Section 4.4: Minimize the potential for grizzly bear/human conflict.	PC - 5 SM - 9 WS - 2	Okanagan Lower Mainland Princeton Keremeos Merritt Boston Bar Tulameen	Miners Horsemen Stockbreeders Citizens Naturalists
135	The population of BC continues to increase, which puts more recreational pressure and more resource extraction pressure on the landbase. These are not compatible with more grizzly bears on the land. The plan is deficient in its consideration of future human population impacts. A cumulative effect assessment should be completed.	See Section 4.1.5 d) Develop a model of habitat effectiveness and assess whether or not additional measures to maintain or improve habitat effectiveness are necessary in order to achieve the recovery goal over the long-term. The recovery team believes that with planning grizzly bear recovery is compatible with the spectrum of human uses that occurs in the North Cascades and is not precluded by future human population growth or recreational pressure. An environmental assessment will be conducted for the protected areas within the North Cascades prior to augmentation occurring.	PC - 0 SM - 5 WS - 5	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Okanagan Merritt	Sportsmen 4WD's Miners Snowmobilers Conservationists

136	The plan seems to infer that commercial interests will be accommodated within the North Cascades, but general public users will not, especially in the 'core' areas. Will the commercial users face increased bureaucracy with permits, etc? Especially between April to October? Will recreational users be kept out, especially between April to October?	See Section 4.1.4 i): In appropriate areas, consult with stakeholders on establishing regulations to limit the recreational use of motorized vehicles in Core Areas from April 1 to October 31. See Question #79 re: revising Section 4.1.4 i) to include all motorized use and Question #84 re: restricting motorized access in Core Areas. The recovery team believes that the draft recovery plan does not unduly impact recreational activities on Crown land over commercial activities. The recovery plan will not create new bureaucratic processes, it will simply inform the existing decision-making processes.	PC - 2 SM - 5 WS - 3	Tulameen Okanagan Kamloops Hope Keremeos Merritt	Miners Sportsmen Naturalists Citizens Snowmobilers
137	Does 'core area' equate to one use, i.e. use by grizzly bear only? We ask that question because the plan is very unclear. In asking this question we also refer to the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee report, which says "grizzly bear habitat maintenance will receive the highest management authority".	Non-motorized human uses will continue to occur within Core Areas. The guidance for the management of Core Areas will be from an approved recovery plan, not from the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's guidelines.	PC - 3 SM - 3 WS - 2	Chilliwack Okanagan Merritt Tulameen Keremeos	Miners Snowmobilers Citizens
138	What impact is resource extraction and recreational use in the North Cascades having on the grizzly bear population? Grizzlies have been utilizing the landbase much longer than humans have.	See Section 4.1 Objective 1. Provide habitat of sufficient quantity and quality to support the Recovery Plan goal. The biggest issue currently is believed to be the impact of motorized access, however, the recovery team believes that recovery can be achieved by managing the levels of Core Area and High Open Road Density at 1999 levels with the "spine" sub-units.	PC - 3 SM - 2 WS - 2	Merritt Keremeos Manning Park Chilliwack Lower Mainland	Citizens Naturalists First Nations

139	How will commercial and recreational users be impacted by the presence of grizzly bear outside the spine area (i.e. adjacent sub-units)? The Recovery Plan states that if grizzly bears move out of the 'spine', then the habitat strategies will be applied to these newly occupied areas. Also, what if the grizzly bears move into population units adjacent to the North Cascades population unit?	The draft recovery plan indicates that the habitat strategies within the recovery plan will be applied outside the "spine" in areas where resident grizzly bears are documented. The impacts on commercial and recreational users of these strategies being applied to these areas outside the "spine" would be expected to be minor, just as they are expected to be minor within the "spine". If grizzly bears move from the North Cascades to other grizzly bear population units no action will be taken.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Chilliwack Keremeos	Forest Licensees Citizens
140	Which resource will have the highest priority, grizzly bears or livestock?	Grizzly bear conservation will be integrated with human activities including livestock grazing. The recovery team believes that setting a priority between grizzly bears and livestock is not necessary.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Tulameen	Citizens
141	Can specific recreation groups such as 4WD, ATV Clubs, snowmobile clubs, backcountry horsemen, etc. have designated areas outside the augmentation area for their use?	The interests of all stakeholders groups are intended to be addressed through the access management process and could include identifying specific areas where motorized access and/or other activities will be focused or managed for over the long-term.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Chilliwack	Citizens
142	With bear attacks on the increase in BC, Workers' Compensation Board might increase their rates to employers (ranchers, forestry, etc.) because of increasing risk to their employees.	The recovery team believes that the available information supports the view that grizzly bears represent a very minor risk to human safety and that this risk can be further reduced by the strategies outlined in the draft recovery plan.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 0	Keremeos	Stockbreeders

Issue: International Influence

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
143	Is this a United States initiated recovery plan? How is the Inter-agency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) influencing the BC recovery plan? We suspect it might impact 'free trade', 'prospecting', or it might dictate 'how BC defines threatened species', or 'how Crown land use continues'.	No, the United States has not initiated this recovery plan. There are two representatives from the North Cascades Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) on the recovery team. The chair of the recovery team also represents the province on both the subcommittee and the IGBC. The involvement of the IGBC has been focused primarily on providing background information on approaches used in the United States and research results.	PC - 5 SM - 6 WS - 2	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Okanagan Princeton Merritt Tulameen Keremeos Kamloops	Forest Licensees Snowmobilers 4WD's Miners Horsemen Stockbreeders Citizens
	Is the United States going to augment their North Cascades area with BC grizzly bears? And if so how many, and where, will they be relocated? Why not augment bears in the US North Cascades instead of BC, starting at the southern-most tip?	There are no current plans to augment the North Cascades population by moving grizzly bears into Washington State. Funding is being sought for an Environmental Impact Statement, however, that would examine recovery options including, potentially, augmentation. If augmentation is approved in Washington State it will be up to American officials to determine the appropriate places for animals to be released.	PC - 4 SM - 6 WS - 2	Princeton Chilliwack Lower Mainland Okanagan Merritt Tulameen Keremeos	Sportsmen Horsemen Forest Licensees Citizens Conservationists
144	Are American bears going to be augmented into BC?	There are no plans to use grizzly bears from the United States for the recovery plan's augmentation program.	PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Keremeos Okanagan	Citizens Horsemen
145	Have the dams built on the Columbia and Skagit Rivers in the United States, stopped salmon from migrating to BC, and has this in turn restricted a main food source for the grizzly bear, which is leading to a diminishing population?	See Question #1, 96 and 108 re: habitat quality in the North Cascades generally and in the augmentation area specifically.	PC - 0 SM - 1 WS - 1	Okanagan Lower Mainland	Miners Citizen

146	Much of the US North Cascades is wilderness, there is no hunting, so why is the population not increasing?	See Question #1 re: lack of recovery of the population in the absence of direct intervention.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Princeton	Citizens
147	Will certification schemes for forest products insist on non-timber resources, such as the grizzly bear, being recovered?	The recovery team is not involved in forest certification which is administered by non-government organizations, however, the conservation of non-timber resources such as grizzly bears is a major focus within these programs. For more information on forest certification in British Columbia see the following website: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/het/certification/.	PC - 1 SM - 0 WS - 0	Princeton	Citizens
148	With respect to the Memorandum of Understanding between BC and the US, are all the ministries represented on the recovery team, and have they all signed onto that memorandum?	The following ministries are represented on the recovery team: Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. The memorandum of understanding with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee was signed on behalf of the ministries responsible for forests, parks and wildlife.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	Kamloops	Miners

Issue: Education

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
149	More public education is required for recreationists, resource users, etc. BC Parks need to proactively educate their users.	See Section 4.4: Minimize the potential for grizzly bear/human conflict, Section 4.5 Minimize human-caused mortality of grizzly bears and Section 4.6 Increase scientific and public knowledge of, and support for, grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades. The recovery team agrees that education is critical to the success of the recovery plan and will be pursuing partnerships with groups outside government to achieve this.	PC - 2 SM - 4 WS - 3	Chilliwack Lower Mainland Tulameen Manning Park	Conservationists Sportsmen Horsemen Citizens Naturalists

150	Foreign visitors use many of our parks and trails (e.g., Trans Canada). How are you going to educate foreign users to the hazards?	Similar approaches will be used in the North Cascades as are applied in other areas where non-English speaking visitors recreate in areas occupied by bears (including the North Cascades currently which has a healthy black bear population). **The recovery team recommends revising the draft recovery plan to clarify that non-English speaking visitors will be specifically considered in the development of information and education materials.**	PC - 1 SM - 2 WS - 0	Okanagan Chilliwack Lower Mainland	Naturalists Sportsmen Citizens
151	Are there school programs that inform people about bear-human conflicts?		PC - 1 SM - 1 WS - 0	Hope Lower Mainland	Citizens Naturalists
152	There should be a budget for education assigned to this Recovery Plan.	See Section 8.6: Work Plans.	PC - 0 SM - 0 WS - 1	Lower Mainland	Horsemen

Issue: Other

	Question/Concern/Comment	Recovery Team Response	Frequency	Location(s)	Interests
153	We are opposed to the plan. How do we stop this plan?	Opposition to the draft recovery plan can be expressed directly to the recovery team (as summarized here), to local Members of the Legislative Assembly or to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection. General statements of opposition are less useful, however, than specific comments as they leave no opportunity for the recovery team to recommend revisions to the plan to address the issues of concern.	PC - 2 SM - 1 WS - 12	Chilliwack Keremeos Tulameen Princeton Okanagan Merritt	Tourist Operator Sportsmen Citizens Miners Local government Forest Licensees Stockbreeders

154	We support the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan.	Support for the draft recovery plan can be expressed directly to the recovery team (as summarized here), to local Members of the Legislative Assembly or to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 11	Lower Mainland Okanagan Chilliwack Princeton Manning Park	Citizens Naturalists Conservationists
155	We have some concerns around the plan but we are in favour of trying to work out a compromise of strategies that would make this plan work.	See Question #29 re: establishing a Liaison Committee that would work with the recovery team during implementation of the plan. The recovery team agrees that direct involvement of interested parties in developing solutions that respect both grizzly bear conservation and human activities in the North Cascades is the most appropriate approach and the one that is most likely to succeed over the long-term.	PC – 0 SM – 1 WS – 10	Chilliwack Hope Merritt Princeton Okanagan Kamloops Lower Mainland	Sportsmen Snowmobiler Outdoorsmen Citizens Miners
156	Why don't you hire local people or companies (i.e. helicopter) with local knowledge in the communities affected by this plan to foster understanding and co-operation? You should also encourage outdoor groups to observe, record and report.	The recovery team agrees and has attempted to involve local consultants, suppliers and helicopter companies in its work. See Section 4.6 d) Improve the current system for reporting and tracking grizzly bear sightings to encourage greater participation by staff, stakeholders and the public. See Question #49 re: soliciting grizzly bear sightings from local individuals and revising the draft recovery plan to include more information on sightings.	PC – 2 SM – 0 WS – 1	Boston Bar Chilliwack	Citizens Conservationists